INTERVIEW OF HARRIETTE GRADMAN WINNER

Interviewee:	Harriette Gradman Winner
Interviewer and Transcriber:	Pat Fitzpatrick
Interview Date:	March 21, 2017
Location:	48 Sunset Parkway, Asheville 28804
Length:	Three Hours

PAT FITZPATRICK: I am at the home of Hariette Winner and we are going to do an interview this 21st day of March 2017. Okay. Everything you say will be down here for posterity.

HARIETTE WINNER: Oh, boy, I tell you, I've got to be careful what I say, don't I? Maybe I'll hear my southern accent, people keep telling me.

PF: You do have an accent.

HW: But I don't notice it. Anyway, we were talking about Jean and Mike Moore and I was telling you that Jean's parents lived here in Asheville and he was a part of the Bon Marche store, which is downtown. Are you aware of where it is?

PF: Where it was. We came in the late seventies.

HW: So that was their family's business. And we used to have some nice stores in Asheville, Pat. And I have no place to go to shop now, very little to shop now. And so, there was an Ivey's on the corner where that restaurant is, across the street from where Bon Marche was. It's in like a V on that street. There's a restaurant there and then next to it, I think there's a chocolate shop, and it goes on up the street, towards the Civic Center. And that was Ivey's. And that was a big store. And then there was-- Two doors up from there was Winner's. And that was my ex-husband's family, his

uncle. His parents were from Morganton, but they all were in the clothing business and they did all that. All that, when I was growing up, when we were growing up, that's where we did our shopping. And now I don't know where to shop. And so I do a lot of it out of catalogs. But that's what, to me, downtown is changing more than anything. There used to be, where the parking lots next door to McGuire, Wood & Bissette, on--it's not Patton is it?

PF: Off Pack Square?

HW: Yeah, coming down. Anyway, there used to be two men's stores on the left side of that street. I mean, it was just really different and really busy. Then it became dead. And then they built banks. Where Wachovia was, and now Wells Fargo, there used to be several stores there, too. There was a shoe store there, there was Carpenter Matthews, that was a very fancy upscale china shop. That's where everybody got their wedding gifts, was at Carpenter Matthews. And that was the name of that store. And that was, it wasn't as high as Wachovia, but it was in that corner. And then a door or two up from there was--I can't remember the name of the shoe store. But it was a shoe store. And then across the street was Pritchard Park. And then up from Pritchard Park there was some more shops where now there are lots of restaurants and so forth. So downtown has really changed. And I can remember one day--or one evening, Dick [Wood] and I were downtown with the Bissettes, and we were sitting in one of those restaurants on Pack Square. Not recent because Dick has been gone for five year, but it was before that. And we were sitting there having dinner in one of those restaurants. And it was in the summer and we were outside. And the traffic was horrendous. And they were laughing about-- They had both been mayors of Asheville. And so they were saying that when they were each mayor--they were also

law partners--but when they were each mayors that they could have thrown bowling balls down that street and never hit a soul. And you couldn't even get--the cars were backed up from the red lights and all that. So that was different, downtown was real different. And the bank that they're building--that they're tearing down now to do a hotel or whatever, on the corner that used to be, you know, right across from the Biltmore Building. What is that bank?

PF: Well, BB&T.

HW: Yeah, that's the one I'm thinking about. And when that was being built, was when I was in the hospital having my son. And I never will forget that there was a big article in the paper about this big bank that was coming, about the fourth bank coming. So I can remember sitting in the hospital room, and back in those days you stayed a week. And my father was in there and he's looking at it and he said, "I hope I'll live to see that building be finished". And I said, "That's the craziest thing I ever heard". Well, he didn't. He died suddenly. And I always thought about that. You know, that he didn't see it. I don't think he would have changed--we were with First National then First Union and then Wachovia and now Wells Fargo. That's the process of my banking. So I don't think that he would have ever changed but he just wanted to see the building built.

PF: Now, where did you live when you had your first memories, when you think back to like when you were a young child.

HW: When I was real young, I lived in Kenilworth on Forest Hill Drive. And a funny thing about that is we lived right across from that park. Well, when I was little, I thought that was a huge park. And my brother and his friends got to cross the street and go play. And I was too young to go play. I had to sit on the steps in front of the house and watch them play.

And I thought that was the biggest park. And when I worked at the hospital, sometimes I would cut up that way to go to Tunnel Road. And I'd look at that park and I thought, my goodness, that's the tiniest thing in town. But that was where I lived until I was about--when I was five years old we moved to North Asheville. And I lived in North Asheville all my life.

PF: Where did you move to?

HW: We moved to Melrose, and it was a rental house. It was during the war. And it was hard to find a house to buy then. And so we moved out of Kenilworth. But Kenilworth has probably changed less than any part of Asheville, I would say. In my memory. Because this area, Dee and I were just talking about that. This area was built in the twenties. All these houses were built at the same time, by Mr. Grove. And I found out when I put my--when I let the Preservation Society put this house on the market, I thought it was built in '25 but it was built in '21. I mean, I guess they weren't all built in one day. Anyway, and then it kind of went to seed. This neighborhood went to seed for a while. And then people started buying them up and fixing them up.

PF: Believe it or not, which I know you will, when we moved here in '78, Biltmore Forest had gone to seed. I mean, there were houses that were rented out and just kind of--you could tell by the yards. And, of course, the prices were way down compared to now, and then it came back, you know, with the expansion of Asheville. But it's hard to believe that it ever went down to what I recall it being in the late seventies.

HW: Well, you know, when we got married, when Gene [Winner] and I got married and Ann was born, we moved into a house and we lived on Merrimon Avenue, facing Beaver Lake. That's where Jeannie and Mike used to come to babysit.

PF: Now, where on Merrimon did you live?

HW: Where Marlborough Road and then there was a house on the corner and then we were next to the house on the corner, facing the lake. And there's been about four or five owners since we lived there. Well, that house I lived in after we separated and then I lived in the Timbers for a year and half because I didn't have anyplace to go, I sold the house so fast. But what I was going to tell you what that house cost when we bought it was-- I always don't know where to put my zeros. But it was like--it wasn't even a hundred thousand. But it was thirteen hundred--I mean, it was just nothing. You know, I just can't tell you. But it was a little bit of money.

PF: And what year was that?

HW: We bought it in, let's see--Ann was born in '60, so it was in '60, in 1960. It was thirteen thousand dollars. That's what it was. Can you imagine?

PF: Yeah, I can, because in '62 we bought a house in Hawaii, a brand-new one, for $14,500 and I was afraid we'd go to the poorhouse.

HW: I know. We had to get--we were living in Edgewood Knoll Apartments. I don't know if they've changed the name of them, down there on Merrimon. Something that starts with an H. On the way to UNCA.

PF: I know where you mean. Coleman owns them?

HW: He did, yeah. We were in there and we had to move because we were in a building that wouldn't have children. And so, we had to find a house quick. And we bought that house. And we bought it for, what did I say, thirteen thousand? That's right. And it had a washing machine, a dryer, an oven, stove, all the appliances. I mean, it was just unbelievable. Nice house.

PF: Do you remember the address?

HW: 1201 Merrimon.

PF: Okay. And you lived there how long?

HW: Oh, gosh, a long time. I would say-- Well, Ann went to college, Larry went to college. He got his doctorate because I remember when my mother died, right before mother died, he had gotten his PhD and she was so proud. And Ann had already gotten her law degree. So mother was really proud of her only grandchildren. Well, she had one other grandchildren, but didn't live here. And so she was real excited about that. But we lived there, I moved out after they went away to college, and I sold it and it was at Thanksgiving. And I said, "Well, I'm just going to go ahead and put it on the market", because everybody said, "You won't sell it during the holidays". And I said, "Fine. We'll just go ahead and put it on the market". Well, it just sold. So anyway, I had to move into Timbers. I rented one and moved there for a year and a half and then I moved here. So I've lived here, I think we decided--then John moved in a little bit before I moved here. And we're kind of the old-timers, except for Mary Ann Lee down there. And I think everybody else moved in after we moved.

PF: And what year was that?

HW: That was, I'm trying to think. Let's see. I think I've lived here twenty years. It will be twenty years.

PF: Sunset Parkway on both ideas. My goodness, yeah, that's a big turnover, seems like.

HW: I know. I mean, it's just been so--anyway, it's been twenty years. It will be twenty years, I think-- It will be twenty years, I know, June first. So it's coming up, or it's going to be twenty-one. I can't remember. But anyway, because they moved in before--the Masons moved in before I moved here. Now, what we did, we closed on June first. And I moved in

July first, because I had the house painted before it was done. And an interesting thing about not changing, things not changing, and when I moved in everything was painted just like this. And about five years ago I had it painted again, the same colors.

PF: Well, I love this. It's very charming, very comfortable.

HW: I'm very comfortable. And it's interesting, one of the neighbors that lives up here, in this white house, Wayne Montgomery used to live there and they lived there for years and years. He's out at Givens. And she died. And so this is, the Balantines live there. And their house was on the same arts and crafts tour. And so, she came through my house and I went through, you know how you do. And then one up the street. There were four. The other one was that house on Charlotte Street that's now a law firm. And it was the--

PF: Oh, Mary Parker's house? Yes

HW: And I just didn't get there. But anyway, so she sent me an email the other day, and she said, "If you don't want to give away your secrets, that's okay. But I would like to know the colors you used in your house". And I wrote back and I said, "This is no secret. I just have to find the colors and I'll give them to you". I just think it's so easy.

PF: It's soft and yet it's got its own power in the two shades of it. It's just lovely. And there's the little charming touches here that you don't see in the newer homes. And yet it doesn't look old-fashioned, either. It looks just right.

HW: I'll take you on a tour of the downstairs later, but not upstairs, it's just such a mess.

PF: And even seeing the stairwell from here, it's just part of the--

HW: I come down the steps and I look out, it's amazing when I see what's happening. But anyway, back to changes in Asheville.

PF: Mostly on this interviewing process, they're mostly interested in North Asheville. But anything else, it's all tied together. It's all history of Asheville. So I don't have a problem with it.

HW: They don't have to use what they don't want to use.

PF: Right. But it will still be there and it does interconnect.

HW: Another change is down in the park. You know, the Charlotte Street park down here, at the bottom of the hill. There's houses around it and everything.

PF: Grove Park?

HW: Yeah. I still call it Charlotte Street Park. And--Grove Park. There used to be a fountain, and they talk about change and they did away with the fountain. They've got flowers in it now. And now there's discussion about bringing it back to fountain. I mean, that's what happens, things keep changing. And I think that this area--of course, I do not love the change of Grove Park Inn. I have to say that. I don't like the wings.

PF: Oh, yeah. But this latest change, it's just so commercial that they've just all but turned the Grove Park Inn away.

HW: Exactly, and that's a big change here. And this is what, the third owner since the people that owned--the family that owned it. And now, they are commercial.

PF: But they've dumbed down even the furnishings, the kind of quasi wood floors they've put on the commercial areas. Even the name on the shirts, it's "OMNI" is three inches tall, and "Grove Park Inn" is a half inch under it.

HW: Exactly, and they want you to say "OMNI". And then next door to that, is that big condominium.

PF: Fitzgerald?

HW: Fitzgerald. Right. You know, I was trying to think. I can't remember what used to be there, it's been there so long.

PF: There was that--I only know this because I read this just week. If it had been last week, I couldn't have told you. But the Battle House?

HW: Yeah, well, that's still there.

PF: Oh, okay, that's down behind?

HW: Uh-huh.

PF: The WLOS studios.

HW: Yes!

PF: They bought it and I think a lot of people didn't realize they were going to take it down, because it looked like a chateau.

HW: Right. It was wonderful. I can't believe I didn't remember that because I worked there.

PF: Now, what did you do there?

HW: Well, it was just temporary. A girl was on baby leave and I worked there and they had this little program. And lots of stations around the country had it, and it had a number. It was like "46" or something. And it was just little news, light news about local and stuff before you went into the big news. And it was just a partial little program.

PF: And when was that?

HW: That was, well, let's see. It was before I had cancer. And that was--I was 45. So it was 35 years ago, probably maybe about 40 years ago. And I worked there. I loved it. It was my favorite job. It was just really neat and they-- Darcel Grimes was already there.

PF: Gosh. And she has never changed. I swear, today she looks like she did when she first started.

HW: She does. She was there, and the sports guy, Stan Pamfilis was there. And that was all. I think that was all that was there. When I was there, they had, oh, I'm trying to think of the man's name who was the manager.

PF: Oh, I know.

HW: Cohn. But I can't think of his first name.

PF: Yeah, and he lived over by the country club, built a big house.

HW: Right. He did. Very close to the station, actually. Sort of. Not really. But you know, you could zip down by the back of his house by the golf course and go that way. Mort Cohn. Mort Cohn. And he was the manager. And I can't remember who was the man who was Darcel's partner in that. I have no idea who that was. I mean, he's been gone a long time. And then, not too long after that, that cute young girl came that's still there. Does a lot of stuff. She does some of the evening news. So anyway. I like her, but I can't think of her name. Anyway, my brother says that names are the4 first thing to go. And I think he's right.

PF: Oh, well, I think you and I are the same age, so we're working on the same tubes there.

HW: Right. So that was--and that's different. And the country club used to be down, way back, the country club was down near the golf course somewhere. But I can't remember where it was.

PF: Isn't it what they call the old Asheville--like if you went up the back way, it's smaller. They use it as a venue?

HW: Right. Exactly. I knew it was going up that road right there. You're exactly right. That was the country club. And then they built the new country club. So that's a change.

PF: And the clubhouse, as I understand it, there was a little stone building, when we came. Actually across Merrimon from here, right at the foot of the lake, between the foot of the lake and where the library is now. Was that the clubhouse? Small, a rock building.

HW: It was. And that's where they went--and frankly, I'd forgotten that. Yeah, it's kind of where that statue is, that's where it was.

PF: Like a monument.

HW: Yeah, over a little bit, but not much. Kind of where you went in to park. And that was the where the golfers went to check in. They had their little shop. And then they went across the street to start. And that was a big change. And swimming pool. I don't know. I did not go swimming there.

PF: Beaver Lake? You didn't go to that pool?

HW: I went on Beaver Lake. But not at the country club. Yeah, that was when there used to be a cut off place with rock. There was a rock place.

PF: At Beaver Lake?

HW: Uh-huh, and that was the swimming pool. And not the part where people would go boat. But that is where we swam was in that swimming pool.

PF: How many years do you think that was, that they had the pool actually operating there?

HW: Well, as I was a child, I used to go there. And then, I don't remember if this was why they pulled it out or not, but a boy drowned in that pool. And I think it might have had some connection with tearing out the

pool and making it all the lake. And the dam was there. Because I don't remember after-- When I got married and had children, we used to go to the Manor. They had a swimming pool. And that's not there anymore.

PF: No, I think they made it into a parking lot where they had a pool.

HW: And that's where we used to swim with my children. I mean, that's where we went. And so the Manor has changed, too. That was, you know, it was a hotel. And then they made it into apartments. And now it's people can buy their apartments. First it was for rent. And I understand it, I think Dick told me this, that before you could make it condominiums, or condominiumized it, it had to be so many years--at that time, I don't know if that's the rule now--but you had to be able to rent it for a certain amount of time. And I don't know what the point in that was, but before you could make condominiums out of it. Now they're condominiums, I guess, when I say that. People own them, I guess, now. I don't know for sure. But it still has some of its charm. And then they had that restaurant in there. What was the name of that restaurant?

PF: Stone Soup.

HW: Yes!

PF: After it moved from downtown. It moved out there and I loved to go there because it wasn't a fixed-up place, and you could carry your tray out, eat it out on the grounds out front, like it was a half picnic.

HW: Right. I loved that place.

PF: My husband worked downtown at the time, in the old Grove building, or now the Grove Arcade. And we'd meet there for lunch and just carry it out there on the grass or, you know, at the tables that were outside.

HW: Boy, your talking about doing that, that makes me think that where the library is and all that, there used to be like a steak house.

PF: Like a Bonanza or a Golden Corral, or something like that. Sizzler? One of those.

HW: It's so funny. I have such a great story about that place. Dick and I used to meet there sometimes after work. We would go there and one day we went and I'm sitting here and Dick was sitting there, facing out. We were facing out the window. And we sat and talked and talked, talked about the day. And we got up to leave and turned around and my boss was sitting behind me, from the Red Cross. And he was a bear. And I mean, that I had sat there--we got in the car and he said, "I can't believe we sat there that whole time and you never mentioned him". Because I didn't talk about him at all. I swear I did not know it.

PF: You dodged the bullet, as they say.

HW: I did. But that was the place that a lot of people went there. It was real sad, kind of, when they tore that down.

PF: Well, it was a surprise, in a way, because it seemed well attended.

HW: And that little shopping area where they've got the dog groomers and now Ambrozia and all that. That's all changed. You know, and where the-- I think that where the library is, was that where those places--

PF: That's where the steak house was. And then beyond that much, I don't remember. But someone has said that, which absolutely I had never ever heard of before, where Steinmart is now, and that strip, had a trailer park back in the fifties.

HW: Well, now, you mentioned that to me on the phone. That could be. But the trailer park was interesting. It was also where that coffee place is.

PF: Edna's?

HW: Edna's. It was there, the bank, I think I told you it went on back. It was pretty good size. And that I used to go pick up people to take them to vote at Jones School. And at that time it was Grace School. It was called Grace. And then it was named for Ira B. Jones, who was their long-time principal. But it was a big park. And then this group of men came in and built a grocery store and a depart--kind of a department store. But that was what they built. I think it was an A&P, but I'm not sure.

PF: Where Fresh Market is now? Because that was a grocery store before it was Fresh Market.

HW: You know, I can't remember. When I worked at the Red Cross, that was when that came into being, Fresh Market.

PF: What year was that?

HW: Now I have to go back. I went to work at the Red Cross right after I had cancer. It was--I had cancer--oh, my gosh. I don't believe I don't remember that. It's been, give me just a minute. Let me think. That's probably forty years ago. Is it getting any of this?

PF: Oh, yeah.

HW: I think it was about forty years ago that the Fresh Market came. Because one of my volunteers at the hospital's husband was the first manager. And so it was while I was working there. Of course, I worked there probably ten years. And then I went to work at Mission Hospital.

PF: Now, what did you do?

HW: In both places I was the Director of Volunteers. And so I was twelve years, I think, at the hospital. And so it was in that period of time. I worked twelve years at the hospital and then before that I was-- So it was probably in the forties, I mean, I was 40. So that would be--let's see. I was born in '37.

PF: That would be '77 if you were forty. Or in your forties.

HW: Yeah, but it was in that period of time. Because he was the first manager. And she was a good volunteer. She really was nice. And that was when that little strip mall came to be. And it never has really taken off, except there was a really good Three Brothers Restaurant. Do you remember that? That was next door to the Fresh Market.

PF: The only Three Brothers I remember was downtown, but I remember there was Friends, Good Friends?

HW: Three Friends. Something Friends.

PF: And I missed that place when it left. It was pubby like and you could get meals.

HW: Yeah, that was right next to the Fresh Market. And those two did well. But I don't remember what else was along there.

PF: I think they have all changed hands several times.

HW: I had a friend that had a dress shop that was there. And that's all I remember.

PF: From there on down to the end, it's been turned over and still is. It's being rebuilt right now.

HW: Yeah, they're doing something now. So that was, it was kind of where that next mall, which is Ambrozia, and that restaurant. Isn't that in the area where we were talking about where the steak house was?

PF: Well, I thought the steak house was actually where the library is. Because it sat very close to the lake.

HW: What was in that area?

PF: I don't know between there and Fresh Market. Wasn't there like a Beverly Hanks office. Or is that still in there? Isn't that terrible. I drive it every day.

HW: I know. Beverly Hanks is up here. They built-- There was. You're right. Because they were next door to Ambrozia up--I still don't know what was in-- And there have been several restaurants where Ambrozia is. So that's changed. I mean, all along there has changed. And when I was young and growing up and in school, where Vinnie's is was a filling station. But even before that, next door where the other place is that's empty now. That was right there, that restaurant on the corner of Merrimon and Edgewood Road. Right next to Vinnies.

PF: Oh, yes. Atlanta Bread Company.

HW: Yeah, Atlanta Bread. That was homes. There were two houses there. And one of my good friends lived in this house. And what I remember about this house on Merrimon is you walked down the steps to her house, off of Merrimon. I mean, off Edgewood Road at the corner. And you could go down the steps. And then next door, where the bank is, First Federal or whatever it is, first something. Two F's. I don't know. It doesn't matter. Anyway, but that was a filling station. And what I remember about that filling station, it was a big filling station. It was an Exxon, I think. But I went there all the time. That's where I went when I lived in Edgewood Knoll Apartments. It was during that period that they had the gas shortage, big time. And they really took good care of their good customers. If we would go, good customers, would go in at like 6:30 in the morning, they would let you get gas, where you couldn't get it anywhere else. Because I used to get up and go down to get gas and get my gas down there. And that was in that corner lot, it was there. And then next to it, where now is the paint store, was Burton's Furniture Store. And the Burtons lived down the street from us. I lived on Farrwood when I was growing up, in a house that looks very much like this. It was 21 Farrwood. And down the street, the

Burtons lived, on Vineyard. Anyway, the Burtons lived down on Vineyard, which was off of Farrwood. And there was a little motel down there, that little strip mall right there that's got a computer store in there and other stuff. I don't know what all is in there.

PF: Insurance and stuff like that?

HW: Yeah, and that was a motel. And when I got married, that was a motel. And we rented the whole thing and all of out-of-town guests, I mean it was a little motel, little bitty. And that was Farrwood Motel. And all of our relatives stayed there. Because I lived on Farrwood, so it was perfect. Nobody had to figure anything out. And then there was Edgewood Knoll Apartments, and then where all those restaurants and everything are on the corner of Edgewood Road and Merrimon.

PF: Two-story place?

HW: Uh-huh. That was a motel. Big motel. And then there were stores, the jewelry store that's out going towards Weaverville.

PF: Carat Patch?

HW: Yeah, that was in there. The motel didn't have the best reputation. It was a little shady. But that was on that block where all those restaurants and everything was. And, gosh, it's amazing.

PF: Where did you go to school? You moved out here, you said, when you were about five?

HW: Claxton. I went from the first to the sixth grade at Claxton. And two doors up there's a little girl, I mean there's a family, but the little girl goes to Claxton and they have a program or a play--and they just had a play last weekend--and she always invites me, "Miss Harriette, would you like to go back to Claxton?" So I always go with them to see the play. And so anyway, that's where I went. I went to kindergarten on Edwin Place.

They didn't have kindergarten through the schools then. I remember one woman. I don't remember her name. It was downstairs of somebody's house. It was fixed up. And I remember that my mother--they had carpools then. And so my mother was one of the drivers. And we had to get a new car. Not a new car, we got an old new car. Whatever. Because it wasn't big enough for all the kids she ended up driving. Anyway, that's where I went to kindergarten. And then I went to Claxton. Then I went to junior high at David Millard, but that's not there anymore. It's now where Beverly Hanks is. And that's seventh, eighth, and ninth, was junior high. And then I went to Asheville High. Then it was Lee Edwards. It was named for somebody. And then when they, you know, did the desegregation, they named it Asheville High. And those were the only three schools-- Well, no, there was one other junior high out in West Asheville. Hall Fletcher was the name of that. And those were the only four city schools, at that time. Jones was not a city school.

PF: Now, where did the black children go to school?

HW: The high school was Stevens Lee. And that building is still there, when you go down Charlotte, the long Charlotte, past Charlotte Street. Stevens Lee and it's up on a hill. And where did they go to grammar school? I don't know. We just didn't know. I mean, they went probably seventh grade up to Stevens Lee. They had the best band in town. Oh, gosh, they were in the parade and they were wonderful! And so that was up where they were. And that building is still there. Now, the building I was born in was Mission Hospital and it was on the corner there of Charlotte Street and--it's that big office building on the corner.

PF: Oh, I know. Where you turn onto 240? Off of Charlotte Street? Like you're going to go out Tunnel Road.

HW: No, that was where Beverly Hanks is.

PF: Well, there's a building on the left that's now like an apartment building, kind of U-shaped. Before Beverly Hanks. If you go to Beverly Hanks, you turn left and go through the tunnel.

HW: Right.

PF: Well, one turn before that, you turn left and go out 240.

HW: Right. That big building was the building in which I was born. And so I've lived in--except for about five years that I lived in Kenilworth, I've lived on this side of town. But that was--my parents lived on Arlington Street. And they were in a house that had--there were three apartments in that house on Arlington Street. And they were in a little apartment. And I had my brother, he was born in Louisville. And they'd come here for Daddy to have a job. It was after the Depression.

PF: What did your father do?

HW: He was in textiles. And he--somebody said he was the first recycler, because he bought textile waste. The name of his business was Isaac Gradman Textile Waste.

PF: What was the lat name?

HW: Gradman, G-r-a-d-m-a-n. That's my maiden name. So he came here. They came to work for somebody, Bill Ness, but then he went on his own. And he would go out and buy all the waste, the hosiery waste. And his place was down in part of what's now the River Arts District, on the railroad, because he needed railroad cars to get his goods going wherever they were going. What he would do, he would go buy the waste, bring it back, and they would bale it up and send it to--Baltimore was his big customer. A guy in Baltimore. Other places, too, but that one I remember because I remember the man. And they would send it to Europe. And in

Europe they would break it all down and make fabrics out of it. I never thought about that. And somebody was asking me about it. And I was telling them about what my father did and they said, "Well, he was the first recycler". So anyway, the building when he had it was a big brick building. Not brick but those white things.

PF: Block.

HW: Block. And then there was a fire. And so now it's a metal building. And it's my building now. And it has CrossFit Gym in it. And it's really neat. But it's right there at the edge of the River Arts District. You talk about something that's unique. Somebody needs to talk to them about what's changed.

PF: Yes. Each year, it's just amazing.

HW: It is. And it's still going on. I remember when I was first looking to rent that building, people came to me. They were artists and they wanted to divide it up. And I thought, "I'm not going to rent to a bunch of artists. They'll never pay. You know, it won't happen". You know? And look at them now. But anyway, this has been very successful. And these guys are really good. And they do a nice job. But anyway, so my parents lived out on Arlington Street. And those were all, they were big old houses, and like Judge Weaver lived on that street. He and his family, they grew up on that street. It's just really--where the post office is right here now? That was a bank, there was a bank there. And then there was another bank where the Sun Bank, or whatever the name of that bank-- I'm like you, I ride right past it. Then there were houses--I think there were houses up like where McDonald's is. I just don't remember what was there. Isn't that awful?

PF: No, it's not, because as I remember there were some wonderful big sturdy-looking houses down Merrimon that they went down one at a

time like where Complements to the Chef was. They were wonderful houses. And then they built a commercial building that's like--

HW: Like Moe's.

PF: And Dough. Dough was there for a while. Those businesses have had a terrible turnover. They put so much money into the building, and at today's prices, when they turn over they're starting up here instead of just taking a wonderful house.

HW: Yeah, there were two or three houses there. Well, you know, I was interested at one time, when she wanted to sell, Complements. And I was interested in that. And Dick was an attorney. He was with McGuire, Wood and Bissette. He was the Wood, downtown. Well, I live at 48 Sunset Parkway. Their office is 48 Patton. I can always remember that. But anyway, so I talked to him about it. And he went and studied it. And it turned out there was a little bit of something fishy going on with the inventory. And he said, "No, you don't want to buy that". That was before I went to work at the Red Cross and the hospital. But anyway, I thought that would be an interesting thing to do. I was really sad when that place went into the business. But she went to Texas or something. But that went down and then, like you said. I went to school with a boy that lived in one of those buildings, I remember. And at Claxton, which was so close, and he had a sister that also went to school with me and sometimes I'd walk home from school with them. I think my music teacher was on Coleman, on that side of Coleman, and so I--oh, God, did I hate music. I hated that. And I would walk to there. You know, that's amazing when you think back, my age, that I was in grammar school, and I could walk to my teacher's and have my lesson. And nobody took me. And it was safe.

PF: It was. And I grew up, it was downtown Los Angeles, and my mother I always felt, even now looking back, she was overprotective. And I could take a bus with a little friend--now, this is before I was seven and eight years old, I mean take a bus with a friend to somewhere else in Los Angeles. Or I could be down on Olympic Boulevard, just kind of watching people. I kind of liked seeing what people did. And, you know, it's amazing. Now it's--they won't do that in a neighborhood like this.

HW: No. I don't think Isaac could ride the bus and he's thirteen. He rides the school bus, but I don't know. But when I went to school, we had little brown tickets like you get sometimes, you know, when you go someplace and they give you a ticket and they'll call out numbers. Anyway, we got special tickets and when we went to Claxton it was really nice because I just rode the bus and crossed Merrimon. I rode the bus, got onto the bus. Of course, there was somebody like there is now. But there were several of us that crossed the street and got on the bus. We rode our sleds down Farrwood. I look at that and I think, "It's a wonder we didn't get killed".

PF: Now it's cars down both sides.

HW: And the Grove Park. We would go sledding up on the golf course.

PF: Even my kids did that in the late seventies, '78, '79, '80, that area in there, they did it. That was where they wanted to head. If we could get there, that's where they wanted to be.

HW: Uh-huh. And see, we could walk up from Farrwood when I was growing up. Not when my children were over on Merrimon. My son and a friend walked the lake one winter. It was frozen, I mean, they had police

there to check it and test it. And they walked across the whole thing. But I've never seen people doing it again.

PF: No. It will partially freeze, but not solid.

HW: But they did. And he had this little friend who moved here from South America somewhere, up the street, and he couldn't wait for snow. And one morning he called and he said, it was about 6 o'clock in the morning, and he said, "Mrs. Winner, can we go out and sled now?" And I said, "Wait a minute. Let me look". I said, "No, Honey, that's just dew, not snow". So when it did finally snow, one morning at 6 o'clock in the morning, he called and he said, "Mrs. Winner, is Larry ready to go sledding?" And I said, "Well, Honey, let me look out". So I looked out and, boy, it was good. And I told Larry--what his name, I don't remember--anyway, I said, "--is on the phone and wants to go sledding". And he says, "Did it snow?" And I said, "Yes, it really snowed". And he said, "I might as well get up, because he's not going to stop". And I said, "Okay". So I went back to the phone and I told him to come on down whenever he--give Larry time to have his breakfast and get some warm clothes. And he says, "Well, what kind of shoes do you wear?" And I said, "Do you have any boots?" No, he didn't have any boots. They'd come from South America. So, anyway, I don't remember. He went out in sneakers, I remember that. I remember they walked off about 8 o'clock in the morning to go sledding and they just had the best time because they stayed all day. And it was, you know, they were on the country club golf course, I think. I don't know. But I remember that when I was growing up, we went on the Grove Park. And they let you. But, boy, I mean, that was, you know, it's fun to think back.

PF: What about church and school activities? Did you do much of that?

HW: Well, when I was growing up, I'm Jewish and I go to the temple on Liberty Street, Beth Ha Tephila, on the corner of Liberty and Broad. But that wasn't there then. And that was the reform congregation. Now, the conservative was the one down across from Weaver Park. And that's Beth Israel. And they came from a different place, too. Both of those had been built, probably since--well, ours was built while I was growing up but has been added to in the past few years, really grown. Just to tell you a little bit about the growth of the Jewish community, that our congregation, I can't even tell you how much growth in numbers of families, but I can tell you that this year my grandson was Bar Mitzvahed in December and he is in a class that has eighteen kids being Bar Mitzvahed this year. When my son was Bar Mitzvahed, there were two. So that's been the growth of that community. Now, when I was growing up, all of the Jewish families lived in North Asheville. That's not so anymore. They live in Weaverville, they live in West Asheville, they live in East Asheville, they live just, you know, everywhere. And so it isn't--but I can tell you that when I was growing up they lived in Beaver Lake and just in that area. Some lived a little further towards town. Well, actually, I lived on Farrwood, and there were probably six families on Farrwood. And several lived over in those apartments. But it was all, I would say--now, that was different. Now I think they live all over. There is the other congregation, it's more conservative, that's over there, you know, across from Weaver Park. And then there's the one in the shopping center, just blows my mind.

PF: I don't know about that.

HW: Well, let me tell you, it's across from Vinnie's, that little strip mall. It used to have a frame shop and then it went out of business. But anyway, there's three or four things on that little place. And there's that cigar

place, or whatever it is. It's all over town, I mean they've got four in town, it's this place where you can buy--I don't know what it is. It starts with an "O", and I've never understood what it was. But anyway, next door to it was a congregation. It's right there in that little place.

PF: What street?

HW: Merrimon.

PF: You know, I saw some, what I call Hassidic gentlemen, coming up in that area one day and that must be--I know where you mean. It's the corner of Maney.

HW: Yes.

PF: I only know that because my son lives further down Maney.

HW: Well, that's it. And there were a lot of Jewish families on Maney. I mean, all that area and the more wealthy ones lived in Beaver Lake. But we all lived in North Asheville, everybody lived in North Asheville. And that congregation wasn't even there. I mean, that one you're talking about. That wasn't there. But, the one that we were in was in a little building. I wish I had those pictures. I don't know where they are. There's a bunch of my father's pictures that I've been looking for and looking for, but I can't find them. But anyway, it was kind of where, on the property where across the street from--it was across the street from Thomas Wolfe House. It was a nice little brick church looking like place. And that was where the temple was. Now, I don't know where the other one was when I was growing up because I didn't go there. But I know that they built theirs after we built ours. And it's that one down there. And, you know, when my children were growing up and they had a few friends that went to that place also, but I don't know where they moved from because I just never was there. But the activities. Now, my children went to a lot of places like the

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church. They had the best children's program, youth program, than anything. And my children went when they were in school, even in high school, they would go to those on Sunday nights, and stuff like that. They had good friends that were there and they went there. My children, as far as our congregation, did not do a whole lot--they did a lot up at the JCC, Jewish Community Center. That's kind of where everybody from both congregations, that's why I don't know where the other one was. Because that's where all the kids went. We didn't have much happening in ours either. Except a couple Bar Mitzvahs every so often, or a wedding. But that was about it. Now it's a whole different story. But that's a big change. I mean, to think that a year or two--and maybe years would go by and there wouldn't be anybody who Bar Mitzvahed, and now this year they have--but, part of the difference is, in the Jewish religion, when my children were growing up, girls were not Bat Mitzvahed. And now they are. So probably more than half the class is girls.

PF: The class you mentioned?

HW: The eighteen. But it tell you how many more families.

PF: You mentioned weddings. Among the Jewish families, was there a big rate of intermarriage within those families or did they marry from outside?

HW: Not while I was growing up. But there is now. It's not a problem.

PF: No, I wasn't thinking of it as a problem, but--

HW: No. But it was a big problem then. It was--it just wasn't going to happen.

PF: Oh, really?

HW: I remember we had a friend that--there where the bank is now, the bank we were talking about downtown.

PF: Right near the Wachovia?

HW: The other one.

PF: Oh, BB&T?

HW: BB&T. They used to be, it was just kind of one of these things--when I go to Louisville, I still see these places. We don't have them. There was a little restaurant on the corner, and then there was a place, a billiard hall, and all these things. And along that area where that bank is, but they were all on one floor, or maybe two. But I can remember--and then there was the hat cleaners. Now we're downtown, and I know this is not North Asheville--

PF: That's okay.

HW: But anyway, how this is connected, these friends of my parents had a restaurant downtown when they were members of our temple, and she was the first person I ever knew that married someone that was not Jewish. I mean, it wasn't anything that was horrible about her. But that was just not good.

PF: Well, it's the way our mothers' generation spoke about anybody who was "living together", or "got in trouble", or these phrases that you knew what they meant that in themselves sound very benign. The code for the day.

HW: And they moved out. They didn't stay after they got married.

PF: Well, what I think when I said "intermarriage", I mean intermarrying among the Jewish families here.

HW: Oh. Well, now, Jeannie and Mike [Moore], he wasn't Jewish.

PF: No, but I meant among, still not meaning--

HW: Oh, you mean from one Jewish family to another?

PF: Yeah.

HW: No, not much.

PF: So they met others when they went away to college and so on?

HW: Uh-huh. Now Jean belonged--or we belonged to the same temple. But when I think of intermarriage, I think of not Jewish.

PF: I can see that and that is intermarriage.

HW: That was at my point in life.

PF: No, I meant among these families.

HW: No, not so much. And there was a big period in time when they wanted to merge. My mother, do you know Carey Friedman?

PF: No.

HW: Well, he's a lawyer. And he was president of our temple at one time. And they wanted to merge the two congregations. There weren't so many people, now both of them are doing good. But anyway, so they were trying to do this. Well, my mother wrote him a letter, scathing letter, saying they should not be merged, that we needed to have two separate places and that she didn't want--if she wanted to be conservative, she'd have gone to that temple. And my mother was this feisty old woman. And so he laughed, he thought that was just really funny. I said, "Well," So, and she didn't believe in, you know, men wearing yarmulkes and all that. Because in those days the reform didn't. Well, now they do. I mean, it's by choice, you don't have to. But a lot of men--you could look around and see who grew up in the real reform and who grew up in the night quite so reform. It's just in services those that join don't want a hat, you know, they came up like I did. So even though religions have changed, our rabbi is a woman, and very good. She's really good. But she wear one all the time, in any house. She

wears them in any house. So that part has changed very much. And even in the more orthodox type places, the women used to sit in the balcony, they couldn't sit with the men. So anyway, that, religion has changed a lot. And even when Ann, my daughter who is two-and-a-half years older than Larry, when she was that age, the women did not get Bar Mitzvahed. Look at this gray hair. My hair fell out last year. And when it's grown back it's like this.

PF: Did you ever know why it fell out?

HW: Yeah, I think I was under so much stress. But anyhow, now things are really much better. So that's different, our religion is--I think it is very different now from what it was. And we were, in our family, my father was very involved in the community. He has been president of the Lion's Club, he was president of several things like that. But he was also very involved in the temple. But we were--I noticed that most of my parents' friends were pretty thick, in Jewish. There were only three Jewish kids in my class in high school. One is here in town now, and one I ran into at the last reunion and I didn't recognize him. And so we had more community friends than a lot of our friends, because that was the way Mother and Daddy was. She was very involved in the Red Cross, she was involved in the school, she worked with the PTA and all that. And not all of them--you know, a lot of them did things at the temple and, you know, sisterhood and all these things. My mother did some of that too, but she did--they both did lots of things out in the community.

PF: Do you remember crafts then? Or was that not a big thing as far as like now? They might knit or something, I guess, would be considered craft.

HW: I don't remember.

PF: Now, this is something they want me to ask because--this is for a different project within the library. I'm not sure what it is. Did you have a maid? And, if so, what do you know about her.

HW: Pearl.

PF: And she was black, I assume?

HW: She was so sweet. She was with us forever. Then we had another one that lived down near the middle school. I don't know where Pearl lived. I have no idea.

PF: Did you know her last name?

HW: I don't guess I did. But I don't think it was because--I just didn't, you know. But the other one, I used to know her whole name but I can't remember it now. But I could take you--she lives real near Jess--not Jessie Ray's, the other funeral home. It's down at the bottom.

PF: By Biltmore there? Where Gene Ellison's?

HW: Now, he doesn't have his place anymore. He's tearing that down, I think. That boy was in Ann's class, the son of the funeral--Anyway, but there was always a black funeral home. But where were we going with that?

PF: You maid.

HW: Oh, she lived down there. She lived near that. In that area was where she lived. And that was--she wasn't--she just came a couple of days a week. She wasn't with us a real long time. But Pearl was with us as long as I can remember back, until she died. Daddy used to laugh--well, Daddy would take Pearl home after dinner. She stayed through--she was there all the time.

PF: You say after dinner. So she didn't live on the premises?

HW: No. But I mean, she cleaned the kitchen and everything. And Daddy would take her home after dinner. I guess he picked her up, somebody brought her in the morning. Well, I say she worked all day. She worked--she had two days off a week, I think. She was always off on Sunday, I know. I think she was off Saturday and Sunday. But, you know, when we were little, she worked more hours than when we got older. I don't think she ever came to our house. Yes, she did, she came to our house on Farrwood. And then this other lady came. And she--Mother would take her home. This was so funny. Mother would take her home and she'd sit in the back seat and Mother would sit in the front. Oh, that drove me crazy. Oh, I thought that was awful. I did not have much patience with that, way back. My father--most people that worked for him were black. And he was very good to them and they loved him and, you know, it was just--but that was the way it was. They went on to their house and came on to his house. But they didn't seem strange to me. But I will tell you what did seem strange. They sat in the back of the bus. I mean, that was a given. And when I went to Louisville one year and was old enough to ride the bus, and my cousin and I would get on the bus, they did not ride in the back of the bus. And that was the first time I realized there was something wrong with that. I mean, it just wasn't--but they did ride in the back of the bus. And I didn't realize it was done until I went to Louisville and saw it wasn't done. So that was something that's changed. And what else did you have on your mind that I haven't talked about?

PF: What were your best memories, when somebody says, "What's your best memories of growing up?" What pops into your mind?

HW: I think I loved my house on Farrwood. Obviously, I did. I will tell you that last fall when Isaac was Bar Mitzvahed and the family came

from out of town and my cousin took her boys and showed them where I lived on Farrwood, and they said, "Well, it looks just like her house now". And I really think that those were good years. We had good neighbors, we lived close. Neighbors were good friends. I mean, there's a lot of that here, too, on this parkway. But that was as a child. I think that was happiest because I could walk out the door and go play. My children don't--didn't do that, and my grandson doesn't do that. They live over on Griffing Boulevard. And he doesn't--well, now that he's thirteen, he can do some walking. He can walk down and meet a friend and they walk to the park. But this is not the same as I walked down and played with my next-door neighbor or played with somebody two doors up the street. It just wasn't like that. And there's a little girl across the street, Becky Kenzie, and we were just back and forth all the time, and up Garden Terrace. Living was being able--it was kind of like you said, being able to visit and move around in the neighborhood.

PF: Freedom.

HW: Yeah, the A&P was down where the barbecue place is. That was an A&P. And our next-door neighbor was the manager of the A&P. And mother didn't drive until, gosh, I was ten when she started driving. But I would walk down to the grocery store with my grocery list, with her grocery list, if it wasn't a big one. And, you know, get the groceries and bring them home. She had a little cart. It was just good neighbors. I can remember my parents sitting out on the porch and people walking, the neighbors walking up the street, stopping and talking and visiting. It was just fun. And one thing that was good was living on Farrwood, at the top of Farrwood is Kimberly and at the bottom was Merrimon, and there were buses on both and every fifteen minutes there would be a bus. This one

went fifteen minutes this way, and this one would go that way. And it was just, you could get around. It was just happy.

PF: Do you have any bad memories?

HW: Not really. If I do, I blocked them out. I don't really remember anything bad except-- I really don't remember anything really bad. Yesterday, my accountant comes to my house. He works out of his house. He doesn't have his customers, his clients, and that's why there's all that mess on the dining room table.

PF: I don't even see any mess.

HW: It's down at the other end.

PF: Oh, my god.

HW: Anyway, I had all this stuff and we worked on it all morning and so we got it done. And he was just telling me that they live out, let's see, he's Jewish, and they lived out in Haw Creek, and their son goes to Reynolds, their children go to Reynolds High School. And his daughter went first. She's the oldest. And she went and she had a really good experience. And his son has not had a good experience. And there was some bullies and they bullied him because he was Jewish, so now he's being home-schooled. But they didn't have any trouble with their daughter. And Ann and I were talking about that this morning, my daughter. She's the one that told me to get him because I went to Ladd Painter and Ladd retired. And so, he was the treasurer at the Jewish Community Center when Ann was president of the board and she said, "Mom, he's really good, and a really nice guy". So, I love that he comes to the house. And so he was telling me about that and I hate to hear that, too. You know, when you were talking about bad experiences, I just really don't remember that it ever mattered. I don't think anybody knew I was or that I wasn't. Well, there were only two

of us in grammar school, Marshall Gross and me, at Claxton. I think a lot might have gone to, if there were some, that went to Jones, maybe. I don't know, but I will tell you that when my brother, who's seven years older than I, went to high school, when he was in high school, there were three-there were some girls, but there were three guys, and there was Paul Roth, and they lived up on Kimberly. And then Jerry Sternberg, they lived on Westall. And then we lived on Farrwood. We were all within a block. All three of those guys. Well, Paul Roth was president of the high school, at Lee Edwards. He was president. And Barney, my brother, was outstanding sports. He played sports and he got all these awards and all this stuff. And Jerry was into writing, newspaper stuff and everything, back then, I think. And so, anyway, they were all kind of outstanding. But that is all there was. Jerry Sternberg had the best-looking sister you've ever seen in your life. Oh, she died very young of cancer. But she was--Ann was gorgeous. And she was almost Miss North Carolina but she didn't make it. But I never ran into it. That was where I was going with that. I didn't run into it and I don't think Barney would tell you he ever ran into it. But I just don't remember--I remember falling off my bicycle once, and I went in the house, I thought I had broken in half. And that was bad. And then, you know, I just don't remember. I know I wanted to go to St. Genevieve's and my parents wouldn't let me go because it was a catholic school. Because my friends--a lot of my friends in the neighborhood went to St. Genevieve. And I wanted to go to St. Genevieve. And they did not think I needed to go to a catholic school. But there was enough problem--I mean, not problems, but there was--I just wasn't getting enough of my own religion. So they didn't think that I should do that. But I remember that I wanted to do that. But I don't

remember anything being bad. I love Asheville and I guess that's part of the reason.

PF: That's why you stayed here in the same kind of house. That's pretty content.

HW: And my ex-husband and I are good friends. And he has a friend and she--we do very well, and he and Dick did--I mean, I just don't--I don't know if my children would say that. I don't think a lot of it's quite as easy for them, as it was for me. That's a change, I would say.

PF: Yeah, mine would say the same thing.

HW: About your family, too?

PF: Yes. I think definitely. I have four children and they're great people, they're great adults, great family people, but it's been harder for them, I know. But, their father was in the military from the time he was seventeen until the time he got out thirty-one years later, so it was pretty prescribed. He moved all over the world, this and that, but it was the same network. Where they had to go out and actually create a life. And I think that was the big difference. And we're in a different world than we were then, I want to say, as disciplined. You know, you had more rules then, but without the rules it's harder to--I don't know how to say that.

HW: Yeah, I understand what you're saying.

PF: Yeah, the paths, even though they varied, you had steps along the path. Now, it's kind of like, just thrown out there. You just kind of do it on your own.

HW: My children, I only have two, a boy and a girl, and my son teaches at University of Florida in Gainesville. And he's been there since he went to undergraduate school. He went to undergraduate school there and then he went to Ohio State for his masters and then he went to NC State for

his doctorate and then he went back to Florida. So he teaches. And he's not married. He came very close a couple of times, but--no, only once, he came close. But it didn't work. And he was right. But he never again-- He's perfectly happy. He's got a good life, he says. And you can tell when your children are happy. I think that's one of the hardest things, especially when they don't live in town, and you talk to them on the phone and you think something's not right. But he's not going to tell me all that stuff. But anyway, he's got lots of friends down there and is real happy. Ann lives over here on Griffing Boulevard, and she's got one child. And she's never been married. She went--what's that process?

PF: In vitro fertilization?

HW: Uh-huh. She tried to adopt and she couldn't ever adopt. And boy, I tell you, somebody missed out on a good deal, but it's better that it's her child. And my cousin, I have a cousin in Louisville that had a daughter--the daughter died very young--but she couldn't have children and she did adopt and Carol said that was not good. That has not proved--that child has not fit into the situation as well as, you know, Isaac. He does still have her genes. And they know a lot.

PF: And she's had the experience, which I think is something. I liked it. I mean, I would have missed that.

HW: Well, she wanted a baby so bad. But anyway, she had--so that's my only grandchild. But she lives here and she's, you know, they both have good lives and are successful.

PF: And it's their choice. So that's part of it, too, of being content for them. It may not have been your choice all along, but I go that circle with my kids.

HW: I'll never forget. It was Mother's Day weekend and Ann came home for Mother's Day, she was living in Raleigh. And I was upstairs and I had gotten a sweater and we were going to walk down to the restaurant. And I was walking out and she said, "I have something to tell you". And I said, "Okay". And she said, "I'm going to have a baby". Talk about-- I said, "What, what, what?"

PF: Did you know she was thinking of doing that?

HW: No. I knew she was trying to adopt. But anyway, and it has been a huge blessing, wonderful. But now, she would tell you, she would have other things. And Larry would probably tell you, although Larry's life has not been as complicated. He's just--I mean, I went through the road with him, I mean. I told you. He went and got his job right in Florida where he wanted to be and he's been there for thirty years. So, I mean, where he wants to be. And his dad had wanted him to come back here in the business his father was in, electric supply. I don't know if you're familiar with that, but it's down on Asheland Avenue.

PF: Oh, yeah.

HW: But it's not all that anymore, I don't think. But anyway, he had always thought that Larry would come back into the business because he used to work in the summer and holidays and stuff. But he didn't. Well, he didn't intend to be a teacher. But he did a lot of teaching while he was working on his masters and his PhD and he taught classes and stuff. And he liked it. So that's what he did. And he got a job where he wanted to be. So you can't ask for more than that. And Ann came home when Isaac was two, she came home. And she stayed here until they found a place to live. So it's been a blessing. I can tell you that the worst things that I can remember are adult things. So, you know, but other than that I don't remember being

unhappy. I do know that when I was in religious school, the old building on Charlotte Street, where the JCC is now, there used to be a white house. And that was where the JCC was then and they tore that down and built the other one. But that was where we went to Sunday school. And we mixed then. That's why I couldn't understand why my mother was so upset.

PF: Mixed with children that were not Jewish?

HW: No, I mean mixed with the other congregation, which my mother was fighting so bad about. We did some activities down there. We did not do any--as I'm thinking as we're talking, I know we didn't do much at the temple, but we did do things--we did most of that stuff, all of the Jewish kids, did religious stuff in the JCC, and then the other stuff was school. And I remember when I was in junior high, Billy Graham came here to speak for the first time that I knew of. And David Millard was over here where Beverly Hanks, in that area. And the Civic Center was where it is, but it wasn't called the Civic Center then. And he was coming to speak at the Civic Center and everybody was getting special notes to get to go hear Billy Graham, because they were going to take a group from the school. Well, I wanted to go but I was afraid to ask. And I was afraid to ask my parents. And so finally, it was getting up, you had to have your permission slip in by the next day, and so I finally got up my nerve that night and I said, "You know, Billy Graham's coming to town", like you could miss it. And Daddy said, "Yeah". And I said, "A lot of people in my class are going to hear him. Can I go?" And he says, "Yes". And I said, "Well, I have to have a note by tomorrow". And he said, "Yes, you can do it, but we're going to talk about it before I give you the note". And I said, "Okay". As I told you, Daddy was very--he was not closed in to anything. And he says, "Harriette, he has a lot of good things to say. And you need to hear it. And you could hear it from

anybody. But he said, "I think that you need to think two things. One, maybe it would be a good idea when he talks about Jesus just to put God in that word. And another thing, when they call people to the front, you don't go". And I said, "Okay". So that was part of my education. But I went and the other thing, David Millard was where I said--we walked, everybody walked to the Civic Center from David Millard. We used to walk to town every day after school and go to Pritchard Park and we'd go and get a Coke and go out to the bus. And we'd take the bus home. That was in junior high. Now, can you imagine the kids today in junior high doing that? I can't. But it was at Pritchard Park and that's where the buses came. And we'd get on the bus and come home. We had those little brown tickets. And we would go into the drug store, there were several drug stores right around there. And we would go there and get a snack and get on the bus and go home. So that's what all the kids did in seventh, eighth, and ninth grade. And then we drove the bus to school. They had school buses when we went to Asheville High, Lee Edwards, because they had school buses, when we went there. Or you had to transfer downtown, to go to Lee Edwards. And then when we got to be sixteen, at the top of Farrwood, there's a house, they just worked on it across the street here, and we had a friend that lived there and he was the only person that had a car. And he would take about four or five of us to school and we paid him 50 cents a week for gas. That was how we got to school. All those things seem like fun. When you called me, I've been thinking about what fun times they were. Dick and I were in school together, all the way. Well, from the seventh grade on. He went to school in East Asheville, or South Asheville. And I told you wrong when I said there was only Claxton. There wasn't. There was Newton School, and it's over in, near the hospital, since I worked at the hospital. But, anyway, that was--but

you were really, until you got in junior high, when everybody went to David Millard, you didn't--you just didn't know anything. Like I went to Claxton. Everybody I knew went to Claxton. A few went to Jones, maybe. But you just didn't know much. It wasn't complicated. You walked to all your friends' houses and there was just a lot of houses that aren't here now.

[Five-minute restroom break.]

HW: I remember that my mother had a niece that came. She was the oldest of all my grandparents' grandchildren, my mother's parents. And she was so mean and bossy. Well, she was bossy, not mean. I remember that. But that's my first memory, because we lived in Kenilworth, and Geraldine came to see us and she was so bossy.

PF: And how much older was she than you?

HW: Oh, a bunch. It's kind of sad now. She's got really bad Alzheimer's now. She doesn't know much. But my brother is so good. He looks after all the family. He just loves it.

PF: Now, where is he?

HW: Well, he lives here in the winter, I mean the summer, and he lives in Florida in the winter.

PF: And he's your only sibling?

HW: Uh-huh. Just the two of us. And then I was married to somebody that was an only child. So we don't have a huge family. As a matter of fact, after Isaac's Bar Mitzvah, the rabbi wrote me a note and said--I had sent her a check saying thank you so much for all of your help in getting Isaac ready for this and everything. And she wrote me back to thank me, she said, "I had no idea you had so much family". She said, "All I ever see are about the six of you". I said, "Well, that's true". But we do.

PF: Well, I guess we've concluded this. We'll just have our tea and cookies now.

HW: Well, anyway, it was fun. It was fun to have to think back.

[Continuing after five-minute break.]

HW: Reynolds Mountain, that was always such a wonderful peaceful place. And this Reynolds that it's named for, he was a senator from here. And he lived up there in this big nice, you know, home. And now, have you ever looked at what's going on up there. I mean, it's just houses and houses and houses. There's no--nice houses, don't misunderstand it, they're lovely. But the trees and the grounds and everything. I'm a preservationist, you can tell.

PF: Where was the big house? Was it down near the bottom?

HW: No. It was up toward the top.

PF: But it's gone?

HW: I don't know if it's gone.

PF: There is a house up there, but it's small, low, one level.

HW: I can't remember. That isn't what it--I remember it. I remember it being--that it was their home, but maybe that was like an extra, I mean, like a house--I don't know, but I remember we used to go up there sometimes for preservation meetings and stuff.

PF: The one that became a bed and breakfast was kind of down at the bottom. I mean, you go up beyond where the Y is and you start up Reynolds Mountain, but to the right. But it's not up on the mountain.

HW: Maybe that's it.

PF: First it was--I forget the woman. I knew the woman that had it. And then they expanded and made guesthouses and so on, and then her husband died and she sold it, but she had it for many years, once the bed and

breakfast craze started here. But now two fellows own it and they've fixed up the house really nice, moreso than it was before. But it's just beyond the buildings where the Y is, which would have been quite a ways in from Merrimon Avenue, actually.

HW: I think it's higher up. Well, when we used to go up there for Preservation, they used to allow us to use it, sometimes for evening events and nobody was living there, I guess. I don't know. I don't know the details, but I remember when we used to go up there for meetings. And it was pretty far up. But all these other houses weren't there. So what can I tell you? It could be a whole different feeling. I mean, I haven't been up there now since a lot of houses are there. And, of course, to me it--well, I don't want to live someplace that I can't get out in the wintertime. I have to say that to start with. And that was another thing about Timbers, where I was. It was kind of high up. But anyway, it just seemed to me it was a long way up. But none of that stuff was built yet. So maybe I'm wrong.

PF: Well, it could have been. You think of how they'd have to grade, even to go in to where the flat part is up after you've gone in several hundred feet. And then you think of going some further, it probably was an incline off of Merrimon from the entrance there.

HW: And none of those houses were there. I've been in one or two of those houses. And I think they're very nice. So that's a change. And the mountains, all of the mountains have been kind of-- But they've done such a good job up on, like up on Old Toll Road and up through there, they don't, in my mind--am I going to be offending somebody--but in my mind, I don't look up and see them and think that's torn down, but those houses-- Old Toll Road was there when I grew up.

PF: Yeah, and it's charming. I love to drive along that and see some of the older places. I wish I knew a little more of the history of those.

HW: Well, you know, you just keep going up. And then you can go on all the way up to the parks and stuff. I have a doctor that goes down through Beaverdam, down that way, his house, their house is down that way. And then they can go on up to the parks, the Parkway. And that has been very little, I feel like, I just don't feel like that's been as developed as the other. But, all that development was starting when things weren't as flush as they are now.

PF: Yeah, I think it was going and then it stopped. I don't know that it's started up again.

HW: I have a friend that lives in what was somebody's house and it's real near the governor's Western residence. Ellie Daniels. Do you know Ellie?

PF: No.

HW: Well, her husband just passed away and she is trying to decide what to do. Before he died and before he got sick, she wanted to come down the mountain. But he wanted to stay up there. But they have this wonderful house that's, I don't know, it's wonderful. Big rooms, you go out on her patio, you know, it's really nice. But you do have to come down the mountain, and she is alone. And she's not liking being up there alone. So that, you know, it's not easy. That's another thing. I'm not afraid at all to be here.

PF: Well, and the fact that you've known it your whole life makes it easier, too.

HW: Right. It just feels like Asheville. And it's so close to downtown. Larry likes that when he comes home. One day I asked him to

go somewhere and get something. And he kind of turned up his nose. And I said, "All right, I'll do it". And he said, "No, I'll do it". You know how that goes. So he left and he went to get it. And then he got back and he was laughing. And I said, "Well, I see you're in a better mood". He said, "Well, Mom, I'd forgotten you go that way and get right there on the interstate to the grocery store and you don't have to go all the way back down there to Ingles." And I said, "Yeah, but I guess I didn't tell you that". That was probably the first time he came after I moved here. But, anyway, it was interesting that he--but he's the one that really likes this house. I think Ann likes it, you know. She doesn't dislike it. But she just thinks it's overpowering. But I don't think so. And her house is bigger than this one, I think. Maybe it isn't. Her upstairs is bigger than my upstairs. My upstairs is not big. It's smaller than the downstairs. And the reason the people sold it was they had two teenage sons and so they had three rooms upstairs and two bathrooms and she said she lived long enough sharing a bathroom. So, anyway.

PF: Well, we'll sign off again here.

[Continuing interview.]

HW: [Holding postcard book.] This is the River Arts District and this is my sad story. It's on Depot Street. And we had the most lovely depot, train station, when I was growing up. And we used to go down there to get on the train to go any place we went. During the war, we used to ride the train, because you couldn't get gas, you know, to go long distances, like Daddy's family was from Louisville. We would get on the train and spend the night and go to Louisville, on the train. And we would get on this gorgeous Art Deco, I guess it would be called, train station. I think this is it, too. Yeah, here it is, because there's the trains. I'm going to give you all

these to take back. But anyway, that was just my favorite thing. And the trains, when the circus came to town, they got off the train there and they would take the elephants up through the streets to the Civic Center, which was not called the Civic Center then. Maybe it was. Anyway, they would go to the Civic Center. And then, when it was over, you know, after it had been here two or three days, whatever, they would bring the animals back down to the train station. And that was just a big deal. And my building is on the train route. I mean, it's on, it's got tracks, but it's on down further. But anyway, so we used to go down and watch the trains come in. We'd sit on the deck of Daddy's building and watch the trains and all that. That's a good memory that just now came back.

PF: But the bad memory is that it's gone now.

HW: Well, the bad memory was, I was married, had children, lived in my house on Merrimon and the circus was coming to town. Well, I had a neighbor there. She still lives there. And I was going to take her down and show her where the trains would come in and show her that train station. Pat, it was gone. I didn't ever know it was torn down. It's just a big empty space there.

PF: That's the way preservation gets started in towns, to prevent future things from happening.

HW: There was that place on the corner of--that was the Coleman house. And that was how I got involved, well, that's how it got started. The Coleman house on the corner of Montford and, I don't know what it was then.

PF: Was it Flint?

HW: I don't know if it was, you cut there by the chamber building. It was kind of where the chamber building is. There was a place called the

Coleman house. And it was a yellow house. And it was so beautiful. And it was, these people, they were friends of my parents, but anyway, he lived in that house all his life, this Mr. Coleman. And it was just a wonderful house. And so, I was on the Planning and Zoning Commission one day. It got turned into a restaurant, surprise, surprise. It got turned into a restaurant on that street. But still it was there, the building was there. Well, when I was on Planning and Zoning, somebody came to the Planning and Zoning Commission and wanted to do something different to that building. And, of course, in those days we couldn't make that decision. We were listening and it went on, it would go on to City-- We had to present to City Council what we thought, but we didn't make the decision, at that time. So anyway, they said--this was on, I can't remember, I think we met on Thursday. Yeah, I think this was on Thursday. And we said, no, and they just didn't say anything.

PF: Did they own the house at this point, the people that wanted to make the change?

HW: Well, I think it was their architects. And it was somebody that wanted to change and do something. Well, anyway, this was like Thursday night. Saturday morning when I woke up, in the newspaper was a picture of the house being torn down. It was torn down. And the thing was that we had an architect on our commission. And he said it was--they said that it was, needed to be torn down, that it was not in, what do you call it when they have to tear something down because it's in terrible condition and that the-- Well, anyway, this was not in terrible condition. And it was torn down. And I just couldn't believe it. And that's when I joined the Preservation Society. And it was a typical old house.

PF: Very Victorian.

HW: Yeah, very. And it was yellow, it was just beautiful. And I don't guess there's any pictures. I don't know. There might be. [Page 46 of the postcard book.] There's David Millard, where I went to junior high.

PF: That's a big school.

HW: It was. That's where we walked from downtown and it was first called Asheville High, and then they took it, it was replaced by David Millard. It's high school but it wasn't. It was junior high school. And the new Asheville High School was completed on McDowell Street, and that's where it is, in '28. And in '35 it was renamed Lee H. Edwards. And it was open to black students on freedom of choice basis in '65. The two schools merged in '69, the site of Lee Edwards High School and was renamed Asheville High School. You're going to find a lot in here. Have you ever been up to Seely's Castle?

PF: I know where it is, but I've not been in it.

HW: Jerry Sternberg used to live, he and his wife lived in it for a while. He bought it at one time. I mean, it's just--you're going to love this. Oh, my gosh. [Looking at book.] I just can't remember, I know I've looked at it, but it's just amazing. I could sit here all day and do it myself.

PF: Well, we will sign off again.

END OF INTERVIEW